

REMARKS

This is a fully and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed on May 1, 2006. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 8-20 are allowed, and claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 is objected to because of an informality. The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6, and canceled claim 7. Claims 1-6, and 8-20 are now pending in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102 and 103 over cited prior art. The amendment to claim 1 incorporates the limitations of now canceled claim 7, thereby effectively to rewrite claim 7 independent form so as to overcome the objection to claim 7 and the rejection of claims 1-6 (since claims 2-6 depend from claim 1) The objection and rejection therefore no longer are applicable and accordingly should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 also has been amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner, thereby to overcome the objection to that claim. The objection accordingly should be withdrawn. Therefore, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable.

Therefore, based on the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-6 and 8 20, earnestly is solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Should any fee be required, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002 and advise us accordingly.

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Respectfully submitted,

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